REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application for the reasons noted hereinafter is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-21, and 25-28 are pending in this application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-7, 9-21, and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Compton et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0174734; hereinafter "Compton").

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-7, 9-21, and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Compton, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection, and traverse the rejection as discussed next.

Independent Claim 1 recites:

> A method of ***synchronizing the phase*** of a local image frame synchronization signal generator of a local video data processor in communication with an asynchronous switched packet network ***to the phase of a reference image frame synchronization signal generator of a reference video data processor also coupled to said network***, said local and reference processors having respective clocks, said reference and local image frame synchronization signal generators generating periodic image frame synchronization signals in synchronism with said reference and local clocks respectively, said method comprising the steps of:
>
> frequency synchronizing said local and reference clocks;
>
> said reference video data processor sending, via said network, to said local data processor one image timing packet providing reference image frame synchronization data indicating a difference in timing, measured with respect to said reference processor's clock, between a time at which said image timing packet is launched onto said network and a time of production of a reference image frame synchronization signal;
>
> ***said local video data processor controlling the phase of production of said local image frame synchronization signals in dependence on said reference image frame synchronization***

> ***data and a time of arrival of said one image timing packet***; and
>
> sending to said local video data processor from said reference video data processor, via said network, data packets containing said video data, said image timing packet being sent independently of said data packets.

Independent Claims 25-27 recite substantially similar features as Claim 1. Thus, the arguments presented below with respect to independent Claim 1 are also applicable to independent Claims 25-27.

Compton is directed to a method of synchronizing the frequency of a local data processor coupled to an asynchronous switched packet network to the frequency of a reference clock of a source data processor also coupled to the network.[1] However, Applicants respectfully submit that Compton fails to teach or suggest a "method of synchronizing the phase of a local image frame synchronization signal generator of a local video data processor in communication with an asynchronous switched packet network to the phase of a reference image frame synchronization signal generator of a reference video data processor also coupled to said network" and "controlling the phase of production of said local image frame synchronization signals in dependence on said reference image frame synchronization data and a time of arrival of said one image timing packet," as recited in Claim 1.

Compton merely relates to ***frequency*** synchronization, whereas Applicants' Claim 1 is directed to ***phase*** synchronization. As explained in the previous response, frequency synchronization is merely the first step in Applicants' claimed process of phase synchronization. Subsequent steps relate to an image timing packet that includes an image frame synchronization signal for the purpose of synchronizing the phase of the local image frame synchronization signal generator.

[1] See paragraph [0010] of Compton.

Page 3 of the outstanding Office Action asserts that paragraphs [0010]-[0012] of Compton describes "controlling the phase of production of said local image frame synchronization signals in dependence on said reference image frame synchronization data and a time of arrival of said one image timing packet." Applicants respectfully disagree. Initially, Applicants note that paragraphs [0010]-[0012] of Compton do not actually recite the word "phase." Also, paragraph [0070] of Compton explicitly notes that phase synchronization "is a different issue which is not addressed by the embodiments," before noting that the disclosed frequency synchronization embodiments in Compton could be used in conjunction with a separate, undescribed, phase synchronizer. As such, Compton explicitly states that it does not address phase synchronization as recited in the Applicants' invention, and only provides a non-enabling mention of a complimentary "phase synchronizer."

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Compton fails to teach or suggest "said reference video data processor sending, via said network, to said local data processor one image timing packet providing reference image frame synchronization data indicating a difference in timing, measured with respect to said reference processor's clock, between a time at which said image timing packet is launched onto said network and a time of production of a reference image frame synchronization signal; ***said local video data processor controlling the phase of production of said local image frame synchronization signals in dependence on said reference image frame synchronization data and a time of arrival of said one image timing packet***," as recited in Claim 1.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 25-27 (and all claims depending thereon) patentably distinguish over Compton.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-7, 9-21, and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Compton be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding ground for rejection has been overcome and that Claims 1-7, 9-21, and 25-28 patentably define over the prior art. Claims 1-7, 9-21, and 25-28 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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